

**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, April 21, 2004 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 223 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack, Senate Chair
Rep. Joseph G. Murray, House Chair
Sen. Dan R. Eastman
Sen. John W. Hickman
Sen. Ed P. Mayne
Rep. Calvin G. Bird
Rep. Don E. Bush
Rep. David Clark
Rep. Marda Dillree
Rep. John Dougall
Rep. James A. Dunnigan
Rep. James A. Ferrin
Rep. Neil A. Hansen

Rep. Brad King
Rep. Todd E. Kiser
Rep. Rebecca Lockhart

Members Absent:

President Al Mansell
Rep. Ty McCartney

Staff Present:

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst
Ms. Shannon C. Halverson, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://le.utah.gov> or by contacting the committee secretary, Tracey Fredman, at 538-1032.

1. Committee Business

Chair Murray called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Hansen moved to approve the minutes of November 19, 2003. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Dunnigan and Rep. Ferrin absent for the vote.

Chair Murray introduced Sen. Killpack as the newly appointed Senate Chair, adding that Sen. Eastman will remain on the Committee.

Chair Murray asked Committee members to complete and return the "2004 Potential Study Items" survey in the meeting packet so that interim study items can be prioritized.

2. Centennial Highway Fund Program and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Update

Mr. John R. Njord, UDOT (Utah Department of Transportation), distributed "FY 2005 State Funds, State Funded Projects, and Federal Funds," "FY 2004 UDOT Federal Funds," and "Centennial Highway Fund Projects as Funded by the 2004 Legislature." Mr. Njord described the current situation of state funding for transportation, federal funding, and the current status of the Centennial Highway Program. He talked specifically about how the funds are used.

Mr. Steve White, Chairman, Utah County Board of Commissioners, suggested that the Committee consider cutting state program budgets so that when unanticipated needs arise, money will be available to meet those needs.

3. Traffic Code Recodification

Ms. Halverson distributed and reviewed "Recodification of Title 41, Chapter 6, Traffic Rules and Regulations" and "Example – Recodified Section." She discussed the need to periodically recodify the state code and specifically discussed the history and content of Title 41, Chapter 6. She outlined the procedures for completing this project if supported by the Committee and indicated that the intent is to use experts in the area to review drafts. She indicated the recodification of Chapter 6 could take from one to two years.

MOTION: Rep. Dillree moved to support, prioritize, and proceed with recodification of Title 41, Chapter 6, Traffic Rules and Regulations. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Uninsured and Unregistered Vehicles

Sen. Blackham introduced S.B. 210 "Motor Vehicle Insurance Enforcement Amendments," 2004 General Session for interim study and expressed a need to address this issue.

Mr. Christensen distributed "Vehicle Insurance Requirements" and "Vehicle Registration Requirements." He explained current registration and uninsured motorist provisions and penalties. Mr. Christensen also explained the changes S.B. 210 would make to current provisions.

Ms. Judy Hamaker-Mann, Director, Driver License Division, Department of Public Safety, responded to questions from the Committee and indicated support for impounding vehicles with no insurance.

Col. Scott Duncan, Utah Highway Patrol, explained that with computer access in patrol cars, troopers can run license plates and make stops based on information from the uninsured database.

Mr. Ross Marchant, Farmers Insurance, explained why it may not make much difference to require insurance companies to update their policyholder information for the database more than once each month.

Mr. Rod Marelli, Executive Director, Utah State Tax Commission, expressed concern that after insurance is revoked, uninsured vehicles remain on the road. He also raised the issue of liability when insurance has been revoked but not reported.

Mr. Chris Purcell, State Farm Insurance, pledged support to the Committee as the issue is studied and solutions are considered.

Sen. Hickman proposed taking time to put together a comprehensive solution that will protect innocent motorists from uninsured motorists.

Chair Murray asked committee members to submit ideas or information on this issue to be presented at a future meeting.

5. Other Items / Adjourn

Mr. Dave Miles, UDOT, reported on plans to update mile posting and exit numbering along the interstates and responded to questions from the Committee.

Chair Murray said that the May Interim meeting will be a tour of the Legacy Highway Project.

MOTION: Rep. Bush moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Murray adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.